

haps arrange the placing of honey in suitable cells. At a certain age bees are probably best able to produce wax. Again, while their wings are sound and yet untorn they are best suited for the vigorous ventilating work we see them undertaking.

In a honey-flow, every bee that can fly seems to go out foraging. But at a certain age the worker becomes physically incapable of nurse work, and from that time it confines itself to outdoor foraging, until at length it dies—hardworking to the last—in harness.

Many hands make light work, and the colony takes care that the mother shall keep up the population. Instinct quickens every bee to busy itself in the particular work for which it is fitted, and thus, though not always in the quickest or most economical fashion, all the work of the hive is got through with a general outward appearance of system, suggesting government. I believe, however, that if nature could forget herself for a moment and allow a bee to be born thoroughly idle, that bee could live its life out in the hive in perfect indolence. In all their work the bees are much assisted by a power of communicating intelligence which, although obvious to bee-keepers, is not yet thoroughly understood. The most marvellous feature in bee life, and one which will never fail to command admiration, is that thorough good temper and absence of quarrelling which uniformly reigns throughout a hive. In this respect bees must always remain a pattern to other communities.

I cannot too strongly recommend every bee-keeper who can afford to provide for himself with an observatory hive. The best must perforce be costly, combined with great skill in cabinet-making, are necessary for their production. On the other hand

a fairly clever carpenter who has had the chance of inspecting a well-made hive could, no doubt, turn out one which, for want of a better, might well serve his turn.

An observatory hive will be always a joy to its fortunate owner. It will provide occupation for his leisure moments and constant food for thought. He should, however, remember that a year or two of observation, and that with different races of bees, followed by a patient comparison of results, must always precede any deduction that can claim to be scientific. It is with a full sense of these limitations that the memories of one season with an observatory hive have been jotted down by

SOUTH DEVON ENTHUSIAST.

Another Use for Honey.

It is said that a certain lord found so much benefit from the use of the following mixture for rheumatism that he paid his physician £300 for the privilege of making it generally known, *Pro Bono Publico*.

Recipe:—Sulphur 1 oz., Cream of Tartar 1 oz., Rhubarb $\frac{1}{2}$ oz., Gum Guaiacum 1 drachm, Honey 16 oz.

A tablespoonful night and morning in a tumblerful of white wine and hot water.

This mixture is called "Chelsea Pensioner" and a man of my acquaintance having tried the same has been benefited.—John Browning, Woodchester, in B.B.J.

The "Leipziger Bienenzeitung" reports a case in which an apiary stood immersed for twenty-four hours under water to the extent of three-fourths at the time of the flood and that although completely shut off from fresh air and the outer world the bees not only survived but suffered no harm.—B.B.J.

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